

Application No.: 09/581,021

Docket No.: 21776-00050-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing goods which lose their values after a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

first dealing processing means for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including desired buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's [side] terminal devices; and

second dealing processing means for executing processing of a dealing in which a conclusion is sequentially made with every agreement between said buying information and said selling information after collating pieces of selling information on unsold goods among selling information output from said seller's terminal devices, and pieces of buying information output from said buyer's terminal devices.

Claims 2-46 cancelled.

47. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a copying processing means for proceeding the selling information on unsold goods among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices to goods to be processed for dealing through said second dealing processing means after executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement through said first dealing processing means.

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48. (Previously Presented) The good dealing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second dealing processing means determines a dealing processing order of the selling information based on conditions of a selling information processing order to determine the processing order for said plural selling information, and determine a dealing processing order of the buying information based on conditions of a buying information processing order to determine a processing order for said plural buying information corresponding to each selling information in the determined dealing processing order of the selling information, and execute sequentially dealing processing.

49. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second dealing processing means include a C1 dealing processing function based on buying information with relatively easy conditions, and a C2 dealing processing function based on buying information with more rigorous conditions than the C1 dealing processing; and

wherein the C1 dealing processing is executed after buying conditions are relaxed for the buying information unsold with said C2 dealing processing.

50. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

third dealing processing means for executing dealing in unsold goods which result from either processing of said first dealing processing means or said second dealing processing means,

wherein said third dealing processing means classify and display the unsold goods as goods to be excluded from sale and as goods to be sold.

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51. (Amended) A goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a conclusion of a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing the goods which reduce in value after a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

dealing processing means for executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

first cluster formation means for forming clusters of buying information of the same buying conditions in plural pieces of said buying information;

second cluster formation means for forming clusters of selling information which meet buying [selling] conditions corresponding to the respective clusters of said buying information in plural pieces of selling information; and

dealing contract making means for making bargain by linking selling information with buying information between the clusters formed by said first cluster formation means and the corresponding clusters formed by said second cluster formation means based on a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said buying information or a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said selling information.

52. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing apparatus according to claim 51, wherein conditions for determining clusters by said first cluster formation means and said second cluster formation means are divided into plural levels; and

wherein said dealing contract making means executes processing for making a bargain between the buying information cluster formed by said first cluster formation means and the selling information cluster formed by said second cluster formation means

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having the same level as the level of the buying information cluster.

53. (Amended) A goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's [side] terminal devices and plural buyer's [side] terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing the goods which lose their values after passage of a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

dealing processing means for executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

buying information readout means for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of buying information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective buying information in the determined order;

cluster formation means for forming clusters of selling information having the same conditions as the buying conditions contained in the readout buying information; and

dealing contract making means for making a bargain by linking respective selling information contained in the clusters of the selling information formed by said cluster formation means with said buying information.

54. (Amended) A goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing the goods which lose their values after passage of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

dealing processing means for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on

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buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices [and] and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

selling information readout means for determining processing order for said plural pieces of selling information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective selling information in the determined order;

cluster formation means for forming clusters of the buying information having the same conditions as the selling conditions contained in the readout selling information; and

dealing contract making means for making a bargain by linking respective buying information contained in the clusters of the buying information formed by said cluster formation means with said selling information.

55. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing the goods which lose their value after passage of a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

dealing processing means for executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information and arrival place information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information and shipping place information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

distribution cost table defining each distribution cost for every shipping place and arrival place,

wherein information including distribution costs defined in said distribution cost table based on said shipping place information and arrival place information is

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transmitted to said buyer's terminal device when a dealing demand is issued from said buyer's side terminal devices to said selling information.

56. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing system connected to plural seller's terminal devices, plural buyer's terminal devices, and at least a market management device through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods with said market management device based on selling information and buying information for dealing goods which lose their values after passage of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices,

said market management device, comprising:

first dealing processing means for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on buying information output from said buyer's terminal devices;

second dealing processing means for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said selling information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

third dealing processing means for processing of dealing in which a bargain is concluded with every agreement between said buying information and said selling information after collating selling information on unsold goods among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices and buying information newly output from said buyer's terminal devices, after executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement with said first dealing processing means and second dealing processing means.

57. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing system according to claim 56, wherein said market management device further comprises third dealing processing means for executing dealing in unsold goods resulting from at least either said first dealing processing means or second dealing processing means,

said third dealing processing means classifying the unsold goods as goods to be excluded and as goods to be sold.

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58. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing system according to claim 57, wherein said market management device further comprises pre-confirmation dealing processing means for executing a pre-confirmation deal based on forecast information before confirmation of the amount of goods to be received,

wherein said seller's terminal devices

transmit forecast selling information to said pre-confirmation deal processing means before confirmation of the amount of the goods to be received,

transmit selling information to said first dealing processing means and/or said second dealing processing means after confirmation of the amount of the goods to be received, and

transmit selling information for the goods to be sold to said third dealing processing means when unsold goods result from at least any processing among said pre-confirmation dealing processing means, the first dealing processing means, and the second dealing processing means.

59. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing method using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing of the goods which lose their values after a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a first dealing processing step for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on buying information including desired buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

a second dealing processing step for executing a deal every time an agreement between said buying information and said selling information exists, after collating pieces

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of selling information on unsold goods among selling information output from said seller's terminal device or from selling information newly output from said seller's terminal devices, and pieces of buying information output from said buyer's terminal devices.

60. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing method according to claim 59, further comprising:

a copying processing step for processing the selling information for unsold goods among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices for dealing through said second dealing processing step after executing a cross deal by pre-engagement through said first dealing processing step.

61. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing method according to claim 59, wherein said second dealing processing step determines a processing order of the selling information based on conditions of selling information, and determines a processing order of the buying information based on conditions of buying information and executes dealing processing sequentially based on the processing order of said selling and buying information.

62. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing method according to claim 59, wherein said second dealing processing step includes a C1 dealing processing based on buying information with relatively easy conditions, and a C2 dealing processing based on buying information with more rigorous conditions than the C1 dealing processing; and

wherein the C1 dealing processing is executed after the C2 processing when conditions are relaxed for the buying information remaining after said C2 dealing processing.

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63. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing method according to claim 59, further comprising:

third dealing processing step for executing dealing in unsold goods after either processing of said first dealing processing step or said second dealing processing step;

wherein said third dealing processing step classifies and displays the unsold goods as goods to be excluded from sale and as goods to be sold.

64. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing method using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for the goods which lose their value after a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a first cluster formation step for forming clusters of buying information under the same buying conditions included in plural pieces of said buying information;

a second cluster formation step for forming clusters of selling information, which meet buying conditions corresponding to the respective clusters of said buying information, contained in plural pieces of selling information; and

a contract making step for making a bargain by linking selling information with buying information between the clusters formed by said first cluster formation step and the corresponding clusters formed by said second cluster formation step based on a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said buying information or a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said selling information.

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65. (Previously Presented) The goods dealing step according to claim 64, wherein conditions for determining clusters by said first cluster information step and said second cluster formation step are divided into plural levels; and

wherein said contract making step executes processing for making a bargain between the buying information cluster formed by said first cluster formation step and the selling information cluster formed by said second cluster formation step having the same level as the level of the buying information cluster.

66. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing method using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for goods which lose value after passage of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a buying information readout step for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of buying information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective buying information in the determined order;

a cluster information step for forming clusters of selling information having the same conditions as the buying conditions contained in the readout buying information; and

a contract making step for making a bargain by linking respective selling information contained in the clusters of the selling information formed by said cluster formation step with said buying information.

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67. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing method using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for the goods which lose their values after passage of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement based on buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a selling information readout step for determining a processing order for said plural pieces of selling information based on predetermined conditions, and reading out respective selling information in the determined order;

a cluster formation step for forming clusters of the buying information having the same conditions as the selling conditions contained in the readout selling information; and

a contract making step for making a bargain by linking respective buying information contained in the clusters of the buying information formed by said cluster formation step with said selling information.

68. (Previously Presented) A goods dealing step using a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for dealing the goods which lose or reduce their values after passage of a period of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

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a dealing processing step for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information and arrival place information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information and shipping place information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

a transmitting step for transmitting information including distribution costs referring to a distribution cost table defining each distribution cost for every shipping place and arrival place based on said shipping place information and arrival place information when a dealing start demand is issued to said selling information from said buyer's terminal devices.

69. (Previously Presented) A storage medium to store a computer program for a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a conclusion of a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for the goods which lose their values after passage of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a first dealing processing step for executing a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices; and

a computer readable storage medium storing a computer program to execute a second dealing processing step of a dealing in which an agreement is sequentially made with every agreement between said buying information and said selling information after collating pieces of selling information on unsold goods among the selling information output from said seller's terminal devices or selling information newly output from said seller's side terminal devices, and buying information output from said buyer's terminal devices.

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70. (Previously Presented) A storage medium to store a computer program for a goods dealing apparatus connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, and making a bargain for goods based on selling information and buying information for goods which lose or reduce their value after passage of time, which are output from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices, comprising:

a dealing processing step for executing processing of a cross deal by pre-engagement based on said buying information including requested buying date information output from said buyer's terminal devices and/or based on selling information including expected selling date information output from said seller's terminal devices;

a first cluster formation step for forming clusters of buying information under the same buying conditions included in the respective buying information, as to said plural pieces of said buying information;

a second cluster formation step for forming clusters of selling information which meet buying conditions corresponding to the respective clusters of said buying information, as to plural pieces of selling information; and

a computer readable storage medium to record a computer program for letting said goods dealing apparatus execute a dealing contract making step for making a conclusion of the bargain by linking selling information with buying information between the clusters formed by said first cluster formation step and the corresponding clusters formed by said second cluster formation step based on a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said buying information or a predetermined processing order for the clusters of said selling information.